

Written Testimony
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
February 28, 2011

Hello, my name is Jenna Allison, a full-time student here at Manchester Community College and a part of the women's soccer team. This is my second semester here at MCC and I can honestly say it was one of my smartest decisions to attend this school. My freshman year I went to Eastern Connecticut State University. Unfortunately, things didn't work out and I did not attend my second year. In high school I was a three-sport athlete so when I went to ECSU not playing a sport was very challenging. Last spring when I made the decision that I wanted to attend MCC, I got in contact with the athletic department immediately. It was as if I knew exactly what was missing from my life: a sport. Not only does playing a sport help me with meeting people but it helps with increasing organization skills and creating better structure in my life.

Walking into MCC on the first day of classes in the fall semester was an exciting day for me. I've already met so many people and created connections through soccer that I wasn't nervous about meeting anyone. Not saying I wasn't eager to meet anyone else (because I was) but I felt very comfortable seeing familiar faces on campus. Playing soccer also helps with my organizational skills. A lot of times during my freshman year I caught myself procrastinating too much. I didn't have extra obligations except going to class. Here, especially in-session, we have practice every day with games mostly every weekend. Not only do I have to use my time wisely, I have created more commitments than just school. In addition, I can see a positive change in my academics. In order to play soccer, a certain GPA is required therefore giving a student greater expectations.

Having sports is just one of the many options here at MCC, which is amazing. That's the cool thing about the individual. You are not going to find people who are exactly the same and MCC helps give students options to be different - whether you're a business major or an art major. Or maybe you're here to get your coaching certification or maybe you just need to take a class here to have a credit transfer to another facility. You name it, mostly likely MCC will have it. Not all students coming out of high school are ready for a 4-year institution. Community Colleges make getting an education affordable and they make options available for everyone. It's sad to hear about things such as budget cuts or anything regarding things being taken away because everything a Community College offers is significant to someone's life.

As a second year college student, I plan to complete a General Studies associate degree as the beginning chapter of my college career. With that degree I plan on transferring out to a 4-year institution to either get receive a bachelor's degree in Nursing or Teaching. So far I love my experience at MCC and quite honestly I will be sad when it's time to go. I will never forget all the people I've met and the success I created here. Believe it or not, I sincerely believe that even 10 years down the road I will look back at my experience here at MCC and be thankful for the options it gave me to succeed.

Jenna Allison